Encyclopedia of the History of St. Louis.

R

Rios, Francisco, commander of the expedition sent to St. Louis by Count Ulloa, in 1767, to establish the Spanish authority in Upper Louisiana. He was accompanied by twenty-five Spanish soldiers—the first that came to St. Louis—and built old Fort St. Charles the Prince.

Riots and Mobs.—St. Louis, from its beginning as a trading post up to its incorporation as a city in 1822, was almost free from disturbances in the nature of riot or mob. The primitive French inhabitants were peaceable and satisfied with their government, and there were no strifes of religion or politics to set them at variance. After the transfer to the United States in 1804, immigrants began to come in from the East and abroad, bringing with them not only enterprise and adventure, but more complicated interests. The old French element soon found itself outnumbered but submitted quietly to the inevitable and made the best of it. No collision between it and the new American element ever took place.

The first election disturbance occurred on the 4th of August, 1817, at a special election held to fill the vacancy of Territorial Delegate in Congress, caused by the rejection of John Scott, whose election was contested by Rufus Easton. The election was held at Baird's large frame house on South Third Street, where the United States recruiting office was kept. During the day the soldiers were marched several times round the polls, bearing tickets on their hats and hurrahing for Scott. Altercations took place between them and citizens, but no blood was shed and the feeling provoked by the affair soon passed away.

In 1822 there was a series of fights between the "Jacques and the Mikes," the former composed of the surveyors and chain carriers in the employ of General William Rector, United States surveyor-general, who, in a spirit of mischief, got into the habit of committing nocturnal depredations on the doors, domiciles, and wooden carts of the French habitants, who called them "sacre Jacques," a name, it is said, derived from the jack-staff that supported the surveyor's compass. The boatmen who were accustomed to winter in St. Louis were a roystering set, ready to take a hand in anything that came along. They had their headquarters at the Cross Keys tavern on South Second Street, between Spruce and Poplar, kept by James Gonzales, and at the frequent balls and parties given there and at rival taverns they had frequent collisions with the surveyors, resulting sometimes in the defeat of one party and sometimes the other. There was a considerable number of Irishmen in the city at that time and they espoused the cause of the habitants and had their share of fighting with the surveyors, and this, it is said, suggested the name of "Mikes" by which the rival faction to the "Jacques" became known.

The first case of lynch law in St. Louis occurred in 1835, when a negro named McIntosh, who killed Deputy Sheriff Hammond while being taken to jail, was captured, chained to a tree and burned to death. The burning took place on what is now the Southwest corner of Seventh and Chestnut Streets in the presence of an approving assemblage of over one thousand persons. The event made a vivid impression, and for many years afterward the "year the nigger was burned" was a date in popular reckoning.

On the 25th of February, 1844, there was an outbreak of that popular horror and resentment of which dissection rooms have been so often the center and provoking agent. The medical college of the St. Louis University then stood in the common on Washington Avenue near Eleventh Street, and some boys playing in the neighborhood had occasion to

climb over the wall in search of a ball. While thus engaged they came upon the opening into the vault where the remains of bodies from the dissecting room had been carelessly cast without any precaution taken to protect them from view. The boys ran off in terror and reported the discovery, and persons came and looked on the ghastly sight. Wild rumors flew about of graves robbed in cemeteries and the bodies carried to the dissecting room, and by the middle of the afternoon there was a crowd of one thousand persons on the spot, making threats of destroying the building. By nightfall the crowd was three thousand strong, and the situation was becoming alarming. The militia was ordered out and the mayor and a number of prominent citizens, Alexander Kayser, James Mahon, Mr. Blennerhassett and Judge Mullanphy made speeches to the crowd, urging them to abstain from violence, and disperse. In spite of their efforts the crowd became a mob and stones were thrown and windows smashed. Some of the leaders most active in inciting to violence were arrested, but the mob refused to disperse and demanded the withdrawal of the militia. A conference was arranged which resulted in the withdrawal of the militia and the release of the arrested leaders and then the mob dispersed. But a committee of twelve were left in charge, and after a time the crowd began to return and show a spirit of violence, as bones and fragments of bodies were brought out of the pit. Finally, it made an assault on the doors and broke them down, ranging through the building and committing whatever wanton destruction its rage suggested. All the furniture was demolished, the materials in the museum broken to pieces, and nothing left but the bare walls and roof. The mob next marched to the Missouri Medical College with the purpose of wrecking it in like manner; but the demonstrator, with the assistance of several of the professors and students, apprehending something of the kind, had taken the precaution to put the building in order and hide everything that might excite the mob, and when the angry visitors came they were invited in and their leaders conducted through the building. They reported that they found nothing wrong and the mob dispersed and quiet was restored to the alarmed city.

There was a city election riot in the Fifth Ward in April, 1844, an encounter between two persons of opposite sides furnishing the occasion. Party spirit ran high and a good deal of excitement had prevailed during the day, and the fight was followed by the gathering of a large crowd, composed of friends of both combatants, and a general fight took place, in which several well known citizens, not concerned in the disturbance, were injured—and as Joseph Jones was passing by Maher's tavern he was fired upon and mortally wounded. When the crowd gathered on Franklin Avenue heard of it they started immediately for the spot and attacked the tavern, breaking in the doors and windows, throwing the furniture, liquors, beds and everything into the streets. No other violence was committed.

On Sunday, June 29, 1849, a riot between firemen and rivermen occurred on the Levee, on the occasion of a fire which, starting in the engine room of the steamer "Algona," early in the morning, extended to the "Mary," "Phoenix," "Dubuque," and "San Francisco," and all were burned. About half past five, while the volunteer firemen were still at work, a difficulty occurred between one of them and a bystander, and blows were struck. A general fight followed in which missiles were thrown and the firemen forced the crowd to retreat into the coffee house of J. O'Brien at 89 Levee. When the firemen attempted to enter they were fired upon from the upper windows and several of them slightly wounded. They in turn retreated, and were followed and fired upon by fifteen or twenty men. Shortly afterward the firemen opened fire and drove the coffee house crowd, composed chiefly of rivermen, up Morgan Street. The firemen, with their friends numbering now several hundred, many of them armed, then attacked O'Brien's coffee house and destroyed everything in it, following with attacks successively upon the coffee houses of Dennis Murphy on Battle Row, and B. Shannon on Green Street, James Gilligan on Cherry Street, and Terence Brady on the corner of Fifth and Morgan Streets, all of which were treated in the same manner, in spite of the efforts of the mayor and police to prevent it. Having completed this work of destruction, the rioters appeared satisfied, and began to disperse, and fifty citizens appointed by the mayor were sworn in as special policemen to assist in maintaining the peace. But about

9 o'clock that night a party of firemen with their friends to the number of two or three hundred, obtained a howitzer, loaded it with powder, slugs and boiler-iron punchings, and took it to the Levee and planted it so as to rake Battle Row, in which were the rivermen's boarding houses. Before a further outbreak of hostilities a shower came up and the crowd started to the Missouri Engine House, taking the howitzer with them and retaining it all night in spite of the efforts of the city authorities to secure possession of it. No further disturbance occurred.

In the winter of 1847-8 a German women suddenly and unaccountably disappeared from her home in the city, and, although diligent search was made, could not be found. Various suspicions and conjectures were put forth, and the one that met with greatest favor was a report that she had been decoyed into the Missouri Medical College at the corner of Ninth and Cerre Streets and killed for dissecting purposes. Professor J. N. McDowell, one of the founders of the college, was accustomed to make public speeches against foreigners and this strengthened the belief in the suspicion. There were threats against the college and a crowd began to gather bent on mischief. As the number increased, the feeling increased, stones were thrown at the windows and doors, and the crowd seemed ready to attack the college, when their attention was attracted to lights and movements in the second story of the octagonal stone building adjoining on the corner of Eighth and Gratiot which, just erected, was afterward to become famous as McDowell's College Military Prison. There were port holes in this building, and a report prevailed that it was armed with cannon—and when the crowd, looking up at the windows, plainly saw a number of students with Dr. McDowell in command loading and handling a cannon, they were seized with panic and broke and scattered in all directions, and never came together again. About two weeks afterward the woman whose disappearance had caused the trouble was found wandering in a demented condition in the vicinity of Alton, and brought home.

On the morning of Sunday, October 28, 1849, two French counts, Gonsalve and Raymond Montesquieu, on their travels for recreation and pleasure in this country, while quartered at Barnum's City Hotel, corner of Third and Vine Streets, were concerned in a tragedy, in which two young men, T. Kirby Barnum and Albert Jones, were killed and three others wounded. The elder brother, Gonsalve, who afterward died in an insane asylum in France, deliberately fired twice with a double-barrel shot gun. The reports of the gun instantly gathered the guests and others together, and calls were made for a rope to hang the offender then and there. Charles Gonter, a newspaper man, was the first to arrest Gonsalve, whom he found in bed with a heavy overcoat on him. Mr. Theron Barnum, proprietor of the hotel, effectually dissuaded the crowd from violence, though in his resentment he at first seized the murderer by the throat and knocked his head against the wall. The prisoners were taken to the jail which then stood on the southeast corner of Sixth and Chestnut Streets, where, during the day a mob collected, and under the leadership of Robert Mc. O'Blennis, they threatened to take the prisoners out and hang them. Toward night there were increasing indications of trouble and a number of citizens consulted as to the best means of preventing the threatened violence, and Isaac Sturgeon with L. A. La Baume, the sheriff, went immediately to Judge Colt, who promptly issued an order directing the sheriff to remove the prisoners from the jail to a place of safety. By the time the sheriff reached the jail there was a mob of a thousand persons around it on Sixth and Chestnut Streets, and the jailer said if the prisoners were brought out they would be torn to pieces. It was remembered, however, that there was an unused gate leading into the alley in the rear, and through this the prisoners were quietly taken and conducted to the residence of Bishop Hawks directly across the alley. From there the prisoners, each in charge of an officer, with whom they walked arm in arm, some distance apart, were conducted to the corner of Fourth and Walnut Streets where hacks were in waiting. They were taken first to the Arsenal, where the officer in charge informed the sheriff that he had not a single man to protect them. They were then taken to Jefferson Barracks and placed in charge of Captain Lovell, where they were kept until the day of trial. They were tried and acquitted on the plea of insanity and no further attempts at violence were made.

On the night of July 25, 1860, a mob of some two or three hundred persons made an assault upon the tenements in the neighborhood of Almond and Second Streets, inhabited by degraded classes of men and women. As the work went on the mob increased until they numbered nearly a thousand. Bricks and stones were hurled in the windows, driving the occupants into the back yards, the mob demolishing one house after another until eleven were wrecked, and the furniture, beds, bedding and clothing brought out into the streets and burned. In addition to the houses sacked, as many more were robbed. The mob set the police at defiance during their work of havoc and then dispersed.

On the 25th of May, at 10 o'clock at night, 1850, a mob of five hundred persons made an attack on several houses of ill fame, on Almond Street, near Third, and destroyed the furniture and contents of four tenements. No lives were lost, and the mob dispersed and the ringleaders were arrested.

The city election of Monday, April 5, 1852, was attended by an unfortunate outbreak of hostilities between the Germans and Americans. The candidates for mayor were L. M. Kennett (Whig), who had been elected for two terms and was standing for a third, and T. P. Chiles and T. R. Conway, Benton and anti-Benton Democrats. There was a good deal of feeling, and in the First Ward, where the Germans, who were Benton Democrats, were in a large majority, they took possession of the polls and prevented their opponents from voting. Some who made an attempt to break through the crowd were driven back with sticks and stones, and Dr. Mitchell was roughly handled. Mayor Kennett repaired to the scene, and was greeted with groans and hisses. When information of these proceedings reached the Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth Wards, about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, a body composed of both the native born and adopted citizens, numbering over five thousand, led by Bob O'Blennis and the notorious Ned Buntline (Judson), moved down to the polls at Soulard Market. The vicinity of the Market was densely packed with Germans, who made repeated attacks on the crowd as it passed down, throwing stones and other missiles into it, while an occasional shot was fired from the windows of the houses. In the midst of the excitement a force of two hundred Americans, well armed and moving with some discipline, arrived opposite the Market, and with a shout for "free suffrage," charged on the polls and drove off the crowd that had been holding possession. The Germans, in dispersing, took possession of the coffee houses above and below. The polls being cleared of the obstructionists, voting was resumed, and all voters were permitted to deposit their ballots without regard to the party they belonged to. But the excitement continued, and frequent collisions occurred in the neighborhood, and several persons were wounded by shots fired from the houses. Ned Buntline's horse was wounded in the neck. These hostilities exasperated the crowd from the upper wards, and they opened fire on the houses in return. Soulard Market was riddled, and so was Neumeyer's tavern, on the corner of Park Avenue and Seventh Street, where a number of Germans had taken refuge. A shot fired from the tavern killed a young man named Joseph Stevens, of the St. Louis Fire Company, which so infuriated the Americans that they assaulted the house, destroyed everything in it, and then burned it to the ground. The rioting continued until after dark, when the mob managed to get possession of two six-pounders, which they planted on the corner of Park Avenue, so as to sweep the sidewalks, where large crowds of Germans were gathered. The cannon were not fired, however, nor was any attempt made to capture them. The hostile mobs confined themselves to threats and brickbats and occasional pistol shots, until several influential citizens interfered, and by their earnest appeals persuaded them to disperse. The trouble seemed to be at an end, when, about 10 o'clock, another mob of twelve or fifteen hundred persons gathered and made a move against the "Anzeiger des Westens" printing office, in resentment of certain articles printed in that paper. Before an attack was made, two companies of the city military sent by Mayor Kennett appeared on the ground and drew up promptly in front of the threatened building. The mob finding itself foiled, after a while melted away, and this was the end of a day and night of harrassing troubles.

On Sunday morning, May 25, 1853, a riot growing out of a dog fight resulted in the death of two men. The fight between the dogs was going on under the patronage of the

residents of Green and Cherry Streets, respectively, when a member of Franklin Fire Company interfered, and the intrusion was resented by the owner of one of the canines. An encounter took place, which involved others besides the two combatants, several members of the fire company and others on one side, and the friends and adherents of the dog owner on the other. The latter were forced to take shelter in houses, and these were demolished and several of the party that had taken refuge in them severely beaten; one was killed outright and another died in a few days after from his injuries.

The election riots of August, 1854, were the worst of the kind that ever occurred in St. Louis. The "Know-Nothing" party, which grew out of the ruins of the Whig party in New York, in 1852, was organized in St. Louis in the winter of 1853 and spring of 1854, and intensified and embittered the ill feeling that had for several years prevailed between the native-born and foreign elements of the population. The "Know-Nothing" party was opposed both to foreigners and to the Catholic Church, and this imparted a religious feature to the hostility and made it doubly menacing to the peace of communities where the foreign, particularly the Irish element, was strong, and the Catholic Church influential. At the election in St. Louis many foreign-born citizens, on presenting themselves at the polls, were called on for their papers and declared unqualified. This caused bad blood, and at the Fifth Ward polls a boy was stabbed by an Irishman, who, after the act, fled toward Morgan Street and took refuge in the Mechanics' Boarding House, at the corner of Second and Morgan Streets. The crowd of pursuers that followed him attacked the house with stones and bricks, taking several other similar houses in the assault, smashing windows and doors and breaking up the furniture. Pistol shots were fired into the houses, and from them, during the attack, but the inmates were driven out and forced to flee for their lives. In half an hour the crowd had increased to five thousand persons, and after sacking the houses at the corner of Second and Morgan Streets, they proceeded to Cherry Street and wreaked their fury upon a dozen houses in that locality occupied by Irishmen. Then returning to Morgan Street the crowd encountered a body of levee Irishmen, drawn up to oppose their passage to the levee, but the blockade soon gave way, two men being killed in the fight, and the mob poured down the levee. A fierce contest took place between the Irishmen, who had taken refuge in the houses on Battle Row, and the mob, the showers of stones and brickbats from the crowd being answered with pistol shots from the inside, a boatman being killed by one of these shots, and a number of persons on both sides being wounded. The occupants of the houses were, in the end, driven out, and every house on the levee from Morgan Street to Locust Street was attacked, the windows and doors broken in, and the contents destroyed. After this the mob proceeded to Morgan, Cherry, Fifth and Green Streets, sacking one Irish house after another, and, after wrecking Drayman's Hall, on the corner of Eighth and Franklin Avenue, it broke up into small parties and attacked all the drinking saloons in the neighborhood, continuing its disorderly and destructive career until at last the National Guard, the Continentals and the St. Louis Grays, called out by the mayor, managed to disperse the larger bodies, and the smaller ones disbanded of their own accord. Next day the rioting was resumed. There was a large body of Irishmen gathered at the foot of Morgan Street, and two hostile disorderly crowds at Fifth and Green Streets. The Continentals, while marching along Green Street about 10 o'clock, were fired upon from the houses, and two of their number—Spore and Holliday—wounded. They returned the fire and wounded several persons in the mob, and the disturbance in that neighborhood ceased; but the rioting was kept up in other localities, without coherence between the rioting bodies. At the corner of Seventh and Biddle Streets, near St. Patrick's Church, a man was making free use of his pistol, when E. R. Violet, a prominent and popular citizen, and several others attempted to disarm him, and in the struggle Mr. Violet received three shots in the shoulder, killing him on the spot. An affray between hostile parties at the corner of Broadway and Ashley Streets about the same time resulted in three persons being wounded, and one man named Snyder, a saloon-keeper, being killed. These collisions continued to occur throughout the day and through half the night, and when Wednesday morning came the streets in places were thronged with men calling upon Americans

to protect their lives and honor, and it seemed as if the city was to be given up to anarchy, when the law and order element began to assert itself. A meeting of citizens, called by the mayor, was held at the Merchants' Exchange, to devise measures for suppressing the riots and re-establishing authority. James H. Lucas was called to the chair, and Hudson E. Bridge chosen secretary. Resolutions pledging the meeting to assist the authorities in restoring order were adopted, and the meeting immediately adjourned to the Courthouse, where a larger meeting of citizens was held, addressed by the mayor, Edward Bates, and others. The result was the temporary suspension of the regular police by the mayor and the appointment of a special force, placed in charge of Captain N. J. Eaton. By 5 o'clock in the afternoon seven hundred men had enrolled their names and were on hand ready for service. Captain Eaton named Major M. L. Clark to command in the field, and thirty-three well known citizens to act as captains, to each of whom he assigned a list of competent men from whom to select his lieutenants, the captains and lieutenants all to be mounted. The duty of suppressing and dispersing all riotous bodies and re-establishing order was entrusted to this body of citizens, with the military held in readiness to be called on if their assistance should be required. Fortunately no more rioting occurred. Two days of violence had nearly exhausted the mob spirit, and what survived was cowed by the determined arrangements made to meet it, and by midnight the streets were perfectly quiet and no further collision occurred.

On the 11th of May, 1861, the day after the capture of Camp Jackson, great excitement and bloodshed was caused by a body of Home Guards firing wildly into the crowd on the sidewalk, in resentment of pistol shots fired at them. The troops were marching up Walnut Street from Third, and the crowd on the sidewalk, with the bloody scene at Camp Jackson fresh in their minds, hooted at them as they passed, and a young man standing on the steps of the Presbyterian Church, on the northwest corner of Broadway and Walnut Street, fired a pistol at the marching column and a soldier fell dead. Two more shots were fired from windows of houses. In response the troops at the head of the column, which had reached Seventh Street, turned suddenly and fired wildly down the street, killing some of their own comrades, as well as some of the spectators. It was a neighborhood of private residences at that time, and many bullets entered windows and doors and were imbedded in the furniture and walls. Six men lay dead on the street, and a number of others were wounded and shrieking with pain. Four of the men killed were members of the regiment, and two were citizens. Jerry Switzelan, an engineer on the river, was struck in the head by a bullet, which scattered his brains over the door and walls of Mr. H. Glover's residence on Seventh Street, near Walnut, and Jeremiah Godfrey, who was at work in the yard of Mr. Cozzens, county surveyor, was deliberately shot by three soldiers, who aimed their muskets at a distance of three feet and fired three bullets into his body. Fortunately the wounds were not mortal, and he recovered. The community was nearly frantic with excitement, but nothing could be done, and after an address from Mayor Taylor from the steps of the church, the crowd dispersed and nothing further came of the affair.

On the 17th of June, 1861, while a detachment of Colonel Kallman's regiment of Home Guards was marching down Seventh Street, at a point between Olive and Pine Streets, a shot was fired, the weight of the testimony indicating that it was the act of a soldier in the ranks. Instantly the troops in advance wheeled and fired a volley into the Missouri engine house, on the east side of Seventh Street, between Olive and Pine Streets, and the adjoining houses. The second floor of the engine house was the recorder's court room, and the court was in session at the time. Four persons were killed, two mortally wounded, and several others slightly injured. The marks of seventy-five bullets were counted upon the walls, shutters, doors and windows in the neighborhood. The names of the persons killed were N. M. Pratt, Keren Tracy, an Irishman; Charles Cella, an Italian, and a man named Burns. Deputy Marshal Franzel, who was supposed to be mortally wounded, recovered and lived to hold several official positions, though badly crippled.

At a Fourth of July celebration, in 1863, at Hyde Park, where several thousand persons were assembled, a riot was started by thirty or forty convalescent soldiers from the hos-

pital, who had been permitted to go to the place. They began the disturbance by drinking repeatedly and refusing to pay, and then demolished a balloon prepared for ascension, and next assaulted the restaurant building, destroying the liquors and smashing the fixtures. The proprietor called on a military company encamped just outside the park for protection, and the captain marching his men inside, ordered them to fire on the rioters. Several were killed and others wounded. The park was immediately evacuated and the celebration broken up.

On Saturday night, October 30, 1880, at the close of the presidential campaign, an immense Republican mass-meeting was held at Lucas Market, Twelfth and Olive Streets, several thousand persons being present, and speeches made at several stands. At one of these stands a colored club was startled by the firing of a shot from an unknown person, who fled. The members of the club, imagining that the police had fired it, attacked them while attempting to preserve order, and drove them back. Some of the police were forced to take refuge in Heffner's saloon, and the mob attacked the place and riddled it with bullets, and then entering the house broke the furniture and destroyed whatever they could find. The police were compelled to retreat again before the rioters, and matters were becoming serious, when Captain Samuel J. Boyd was detailed by Captain William Lee to quell the riot. Taking with him fourteen men, all he could gather on the spur of the moment, he gave an example of what a handful of resolute trained men can do against a disorderly and lawless mob of twenty times their number. Forming his men in line, with himself in the lead, Captain Boyd charged into the crowd with a cheer that suggested a regiment behind it, the police beating their way through with their clubs, which came down upon every head in front of them. The negroes at first tried to make a fight with their torch staves, but they could not stand before the determined attack of the police, who put them to flight, pursuing them along Twelfth Street to Lucas Avenue. On their return they found a body of rioters in possession of a drug store. These were attacked and driven off, with the loss of one killed and several others badly wounded, who afterward died in the hospital. Several hundred shots were fired during the affray. Only one of Captain Boyd's force was injured, a man named Shafford.

One of the accompaniments of the great railroad strike of July, 1877, was a sort of reign of disorder in St. Louis, which lasted for several days, during which the community was almost entirely at the mercy of a body of anarchist agitators calling themselves the "International Committee of the Workingmen," with headquarters at Schuler's Hall, corner of Fifth and Biddle Streets. Here they issued edicts and organized labor meetings and processions, which were directed to visit all manufacturing and industrial establishments and compel the employes to quit work and join in the movement for revolutionizing things in general—foreign-born persons taking the lead in the proceedings. To assist in compelling obedience to the decrees of the committee a regiment of negroes, mostly roustabouts from the levee, armed with clubs and revolvers, was sent on a march through the city. At 8 o'clock, July 25th, a meeting was held at Lucas Market, on Twelfth Street, and here the beginning was made. A procession started from the meeting, which soon degenerated into a mob, passing down Locust Street to Fifth, thence to Poplar, thence to Twelfth and Spruce and the Four Courts, stopping at the Phoenix Planing Mill, and giving the proprietor fifteen minutes to close his works. The mob then moved across the Twelfth Street bridge and forced the St. Louis Bagging Factory to shut down, after terrifying the one hundred female operatives with their shouts and yells as they were being discharged from work. The rioters next took possession of the foundry of Shickle, Harrison & Co., a short distance away, and shut off the steam. At the Douglas Bagging Factory, on Stoddard Street, the windows were broken and the door of the engine room beaten in, and the engineer compelled, under threats of death, to shut off steam. The mob then, after insulting and frightening the women and girls employed in the factory, visited successively, Wainwright's Malt House, Christopher Simpson & Co.'s foundry, on Park Avenue, the works of the Southern Bagging Company, at Decatur and Barry Streets, and the St. Louis Trunk Factory, where similar scenes were enacted. They next compelled the Saxony Mills and the Southern White Lead and Color Works to close up, under threats of burning,

and kept up their visitation march until a dozen other establishments were forced to suspend. At Plum Street depot they surrounded a passenger train on the Iron Mountain Railroad that was preparing to start out, threatened the passengers, and were dissuaded from detaining it only through the efforts of some white colleagues in their ranks. The mob divided into two bodies, to facilitate the task of forcing a general suspension of factory work, and a small detachment, under the lead of a member of the international committee, visited the Dozier-Weyl Bakery, at the corner of Sixth and Pine Streets, where, after compelling the thirty or more employes to stop work, they took possession of the retail department and devoured the loaves of bread, pies and cake. Toward the close of the day the law-abiding citizens of St. Louis began to recover from their stupor, and in co-operation with the authorities, a volunteer force of about four thousand men was organized and equipped for action. On Thursday, the 26th, a raid was made on Schuler's Hall by the mounted police, under Captain Boyd. On reaching the neighborhood the street adjacent to the hall was cleared by a charge, and a number of rioters and idlers inside were arrested; but the executive committee, who had been instigating and directing the disorder, had received notice of the attack and escaped through the windows on the roof of the adjoining building, and the group of ineffectives whom the military procession brought to the calaboose as prisoners were too pitiable and sorry looking to gratify the resentment or provoke the derision of the crowds of spectators collected on the streets to see them as they passed. The riot was completely broken and some of the leaders were arrested and punished.

In 1881, April 20th, the street car conductors and drivers held a meeting at Turners' Hall and demanded a reduction of hours from eighteen to twelve as a day's work, with $1.75 a day for drivers and $2 a day for conductors, with a resolution to strike if the terms were not acceded to. The companies rejected the terms, and on Saturday the men, seven hundred in number, quit work on every line in the city but two. For nearly a week street car travel was suspended, and the public put to great inconvenience. The few cars that came down town were prevented from moving by the crowds in sympathy with the strikers, and the few new men who took the places of the old ones were hooted at and reviled as "scabs," and sometimes along the route they were pelted with dirt and stones. The feeling was increasing, and there were indications of further trouble, when the National Guards were called out and held in readiness to act, and the police, by judicious management, broke the power of the strike and dispersed the crowds, and the regular running of the cars, with new conductors and drivers, was resumed.

On Tuesday, June 10, 1884, there was an affray between the mates of the steamer "St. Paul" and the roustabouts employed on her, growing out of misunderstanding about wages. One of the mates was driven into the river, and the other, in defending himself, shot and mortally wounded one of his assailants.

There was a strike of street car conductors and drivers in the early part of October, 1885, attended by much lawless conduct on the part of the strikers and their sympathizers, and great inconvenience to the public—for it was during the Fair week, when the demand for street car service is greater than usual. The strikers demanded a reduction of the work day from eighteen hours to twelve, and the sympathy of the street crowd was plainly with them. The lines affected attempted to run their cars with new drivers, but with poor success, and their patrons had to walk. As fast as new men were placed on the cars they were persuaded by the strikers to give up their positions. On Broadway the cars were stopped and the horses taken out and hitched to the other end of the car. The Cass Avenue line encountered similar trouble, and one of the drivers was dragged off his car. A crowd of sympathizers at Compton Avenue threw stones into a Market Street car, smashing the windows. Next day a mob smashed several cars on Pine Street and beat the drivers off, and on Seventh and Eighth Streets a Cass Avenue car was surrounded by a crowd, with cries of derision against the driver, and one man leaped over the dashboard and seized him by the throat and beat him in the face. The horses were unhitched and the car left standing on the track. A police officer finally managed to arrest the driver's assailant and take him off. The mob then rushed to Pine Street, and at Seventh stopped a blue car, cut the lines and traces, and drove the mules off. All cars attempting to cross west

were forcibly stopped, the mules unhitched, and the cars thrown from the track. About 11 o'clock a car on the Bellefontaine line was derailed by a strong body of strikers, causing a blockade of seven cars that had been detained for the "trades procession." The passengers were forced to leave the cars, which were then turned over on their side and left in the street, the drivers were taken from their cars and badly beaten, and one of them sent home with a fractured skull. Next day, Friday, the 9th, riots occurred at half a dozen different places, attended by the destruction of railroad property, and John Havey, a bricklayer, who was taking part with the strikers, was shot and killed by Officer Hamon of the police. At Twelfth Street bridge several cars were overturned and a driver severely beaten, several of the rioters engaged in the work being arrested. On the Chouteau Avenue line a party of forty strikers detached two cars and beat the drivers and conductors, and similar violence was enacted on O'Fallon Street. In the western part of the city a lady in the Jefferson Avenue car had her arm broken by the explosion of a torpedo. The killing of the bricklayer, Havey, marked the culmination of the disturbance, and as it was followed by the arrest of several of the most active and daring of the leaders, the strikers became disheartened and gave up the contest.

In March, 1886, there was a strike among the workmen employed on the Gould system of roads, provoked by the discharge of a carpenter, whom Mr. Hoxie, of the Missouri Pacific, refused to reinstate. At the command of Martin Irons, who was at the head of the labor organizations, the men went out, and the roads were tied up for several weeks, only mail cars being permitted to go out of the yards in St. Louis. A crowd of fifteen hundred persons, strikers and their sympathizers, would assemble at the yards and machine shops every morning, offering such impediments as throwing switches the wrong way, running engines off the track, and pulling out coupling-pins, so that it was impossible to make up trains or take them out. Fortunately, the strike was not attended by bloodshed, and after a time the strikers gave it up and the regular running of trains was resumed.

D. M. Grissom.

River Commerce Under Military Control.—On the 10th of December, 1861, owing to the exigencies of the Civil War, the river commerce from the port of St. Louis was placed under military control and surveillance. Under the order which then went into force no steamboats or other craft were permitted to take freight or passengers from this port except those authorized by the major-general commanding the Department of Missouri, or the general commanding the district of St. Louis. All officers, pilots and river employes on any steamboat or craft doing business on the rivers to and from the port of St. Louis were required to take an oath of allegiance to the United States government. The object of the order was to suppress and entirely prevent any aid or assistance to, or communication with, any person or persons directly or indirectly disloyal to or in arms against the Federal authority of the United States. Any owner, officer or pilot of any steamboat or other craft who acted contrary to the order was liable to the forfeiture of his steamboat or other craft, and her cargo to the Federal government.

River Navigation, Steamboat.—In order to give a pretty fair account of the rise and progress of steamboating, and of the class of men connected with it, it will hardly be necessary to date back of the year 1832, as before that time there were but few steamboats, and these made only occasional trips, such as the "Orleans," from Louisville to New Orleans, in 1811; the "Vesuvius," the "Washington," the "Aetna" and a few others. They were seagoing vessels, and were brought around by sea from the East, with the exception of the "Orleans," which was built on the Ohio River. All of them were more or less experiments, especially as to their machinery, which was low pressure, and their hulls were built of such heavy material that they proved, for the most part, financial failures; and it was not until steamboat-building was regularly inaugurated in the West—at McKeesport, Brownsville, Pittsburg, and Freedom, in Pennsylvania, and at other points—that steamboating developed into a successful occupation. That was about the year 1832, at which time and thereafter they were turned out by the dozen, or, rather, by the hundred. For a series of years constant improvements were made in their construction, both as to machinery, size, and style of hull and cabin. The first steamboats built were very small, varying in length from thirty